

Operation Update Report IRAN: Sistan- Baluchestan Floods

DREF n° MDRIR003	GLIDE n° FF-2020-000006-IRN
Operation update n° 1; 31/05/2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 4 months starting from January 2020
Operation start date: 12 January 2020	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended for two additional months ending 31 July 2020)
	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 499,874
N° of people being assisted: 25,000 (5,000 HHs)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Iran, Local NGOs, UN Agencies	

Summary:

The Operation Update n1 provides information on the progress of the ongoing response operation of the IRCS for the targeted affected population by the Sistan-Baluchestan floods that had hit Iran in mid-January 2020.

This operation has been extended for 2 additional months aiming to finalise cash distribution to the affected population (3,000 HHs)

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The severe rainfall and flooding which started on 9 January 2020, left casualties and widespread damages to infrastructures and assets of the inhabitant communities.

The flooding also blocked roads, destroyed houses and displaced thousands of people in Sistan and Baluchestan province with two adjacent provinces of Kerman and Hormozgan in south-east of Iran. Flooding has blocked rural roads linking more than 500 villages.

Torrential rains and flash floods have caused economic losses to agricultural farms, subterranean canals, roads leading to farms,



Figure 1. Iran provinces affected by flash floods
Photo credit: Iranian Red Crescent Society

animal husbandry units and fish hatcheries in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

In January 2020, the maximum rainfall was reported at 186 mm from Nikshahr County, while the average annual rainfall is 113 mm in Sistan and Baluchestan province, according to Iranian Meteorological Organisation. Reportedly, the record-breaking precipitation was 26 times more than last year that means the province was affected in the most severe way.



Figure2. Iran provinces affected by flash floods
Photo credit: Iranian Red Crescent Society

The flood streams ran over 15 districts in Sistan and Baluchestan including Iranshahr, Chabahar, Khash, Delgan, Zahedan, Sarbaz, Saravan, Sib and Sooran, Fonooj, Konarak, Mehrestan, Zahak, Mirjaveh, Nikshar and Hirmand, causing massive impacts.

In the first days of the disaster, electricity was cut off in 877 villages, 875 routes of cities and rural areas were blocked off, 245 network irrigation canals in villages were damaged, telecommunication system faced disconnecting issues, and many houses and agricultural infrastructures were washed away.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) responded to the disaster from the very beginning possible time. In response to the impact of the floods in the province, inhabitants of 6 villages with total population of 245 families were evacuated. A number of 12 injured persons, as well as 7 pregnant women have been transported to the medical centres and 69 persons have been saved and rescued from river flood. Also, 195 houses have been drained water off and 8 vehicles were towed from water flood.

IRCS deployed 404 teams including 1,953 rescuers and relief workers to 933 affected cities and villages to provide relief and rescue services. The Red Crescent Society in these provinces reached out to 104,185 affected people (20,837 families) and sheltered 11,988 persons. Emergency-shelter camps were also established in Konarak, Fanooj and Ghasrghand districts to shelter the affected communities in case of any unpredictable situation.

Red Crescent volunteers distributed food and non-food items to address the arising needs of the flood affected areas, as well. The distributed items included 2,520 tents, 11,106 blankets, 5,134 ground sheet, and 1,006 kerosene lamps, 7,399 kg covering plastic, 3,132 kg of sugar, 14,731 canned foods, 6,864 kg of rice, 2,045 kg of beans, 4,671 bottles of drinking water 32,983 loaves of bread and 17,219 packages of food.



Figure3. IRCS volunteers conducting relief activities
Photo credit: IRCS

IRCS has 400 local branches across the country with 10,000 staff. The IRCS has strong auxiliary link to Government and is mandated, under the Law on Emergency Operations, to conduct Search and Rescue activities, Relief Services and the provision of Emergency Shelter. In addition, the IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness on disasters, including the provision of related educational activities.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC has a presence in Iran since 1991 and has been providing technical support in capacity strengthening initiatives and disaster management, shelter, disaster law, youth and health. There is no partner National Societies present in the country; however, IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with a number of partners RCRC NSs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation based in Tehran with various number of humanitarian activities in cooperation with the IRCS and is on standby to support the IRCS operation (e.g. through RFL). Movement partners are in regular coordination especially during the emergencies in the country.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

The floods have triggered an immediate response from local communities across the country; Iranians show solidarity, providing manifold activities to support the affected people. The flood response in Iran is implemented by national and local actors, providing an example of localized response. A wide range of UN agencies are present in-country, including FAO, IOM, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO. INGOs have limited presence in country, with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Relief International (RI) present in country.

Following the floods, WFP has been providing assistance to refugees in Iran since the arrival of the first asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Iraq in the late 1980s. Although its operations in Iran are mostly focused on assisting refugees, WFP also work with its partner, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, to bolster the Government's emergency response capacity. Following major floods in March 2019 and January 2020, WFP in Tehran in close cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent procured and distributed 4,720 food parcels in Iranshahr and Chabahar of Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

IRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted 24-hour and 72-hour assessments in the affected districts and branches to identify the immediate needs and priorities using helicopters, boats and vehicles.

The general assessments carried out in the areas show that food items, tent, blanket, ground sheet and kerosene lamp are among the current needs of the flood affected people.



*Figure3. IRCS volunteers conducting rescue activities
Photo credit: IRCS*

Targeting

IRCS has prioritised the most vulnerable households amongst affected populations in the affected districts for cash assistance. The selection is carried out in close coordination with the local authorities. Priority is given to the people displaced by floods who are living in evacuation centres and affected people returning to their homes.

Hereunder, a snapshot of situation in the affected areas in Sistan and Baluchestan province:

District	Number of Villages	Number of Affected Families	Number of Affected People
Chabahr	109	11,251	56,255
Iranshahr	20	800	4,800
Konarak	21	1,473	6,629
Fanouj	90	13,800	43,600
Delgan	38	6,166	30,600
Nikshahr	47	3,900	19,500
Zahedan	34	823	3,704
Mehrestan	23	380	1,983
Saravan	8	117	644
Khash	27	300	2,168
Mirjaveh	17	149	671
Sarbaz	8	69	311
Total	442	39,228	170,865

Scenario planning

The flood streams caused widespread damages in the provinces; two persons lost their lives (due to being drowned and hit by falling debris), many houses and vehicles were overflowed as well. Also, the level of water in dams was reported being rising by heavy rains that could lead to flooding.

The inhabitants of 6 villages were evacuated with total population of 245 families and 12 injured persons, as well as 5 pregnant women had been transported to the medical centres, and 22 persons had been saved and rescued from river flood. Also, 195 houses had been drained water off. Considering the impact of the flood in the province, Iranian Red Crescent Society is working with the IFRC to assist the flood hit people through the Cash Transfer Program (CTP).

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Most likely scenario	People returned to their houses whilst living with lots of loss and damage to their properties. Due to damage of their houses, crops land and etc., there are needs to indemnify some household appliances	This DREF intends to address the immediate need of the most vulnerable affected families based on cash distribution. 25,000 blankets which has been procured by the IFRC, is replenished in the warehouses in three provinces of Kerman, Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces to meet the needs of vulnerable in possible disaster in future.

Operation Risk Assessment

There were constraints in transferring the amount of CHF 300,000 for distribution among 3,000 of the most vulnerable and affected families due to the sanctions. By considering the current situation and constraints, an extension of DREF for two months is required and requested by the Iranian Red Crescent aiming to finalise the remaining activity.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation is to ensure appropriate assistance for 3,000 households (15,000 people) affected by floods in the province of Sistan-Baluchestan in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, providing them with support to meet their basic needs through unconditional cash grants. In parallel, material preparedness for the ongoing operation / other emergencies is reinforced by replenishing depleted shelter emergency stocks, specifically blankets.

Proposed strategy

The IRCS decided to use the amount of DREF up to CHF 500,000 for effective continuation of the relief operation and specifically for cash program and provision of shelter for the most vulnerable people.

This DREF addressed the immediate needs of the most vulnerable affected families by procurement of 25,000 blankets for 5,000 households. The Iranian Red Crescent Society finalised the partial replenishment of its emergency stocks for almost 25,000 blankets to restock its contingency storage. In total, three provincial branches of IRCS in Sistan and Baluchestan, Kerman and Hormozgan have received blankets as below:

Distribution Date	Number of distributed blankets/ Province			Total Number of Distributed Blankets
	Kerman	Hormozgan	Sistan and Baluchestan	
15 April 2020	3,584	1,920	3,584	9,088
15 April 2020	3,584	1,664	3,584	8,832
15 April 2020	-	-	3,504	3,504
16 April 2020	-	3,584	-	3,584
	7,168	7,168	10,672	25,008

The remaining of DREF will be used for cash distribution in the amount of 100 CHF via bank transfer to meet the basic needs of 15,000 beneficiaries (3,000 HHs). The beneficiaries will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Affected population of Sistan- Baluchestan province.
- Displaced people by the flood.
- People with severely or completely damaged houses.
- Households headed by women, i.e. widows, divorced or separated women without income.
- Households with person(s) living with disabilities and other socially excluded / marginalised groups.
- Households with insufficient coping mechanisms.
- Households from vulnerable occupational groups.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 25,000 (5,000 HHs)

Male: 12,805

Female: 12,195

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements	25,000	25,000

Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	5,000	5,000

Progress towards outcomes

The Iranian Red Crescent Society finalised the partial replenishment of its emergency stocks for almost 25,000 blankets to restock its contingency storage through international procurement.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: -

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with unconditional / multipurpose cash grants and able to cover their monthly basic needs	3,000	-

Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants	3,000	-

Progress towards outcomes

This DREF has been extended for an additional 2 months aiming to finalise the remaining activity of cash distributions; 3,000 HHs (15,000 individuals) will receive one-off unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants in the amount of 100 CHF via bank transfer to meet their basic needs.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of IRCS staff and Volunteers trained on CBI and CEA	20	-

Progress towards outcomes

Due to COVID-19 and movement restrictions, Cash Based Intervention and Community Engagement and Accountability trainings could not be carried out. Going forward, this could be conducted virtually.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of surge members deployed</i>	2	1
<i># of surge missions</i>	2	-

Progress towards outcomes

- Procurement and delivery of blankets has been coordinated internationally through IFRC MENA regional office.
- 1 surge Ops Coordinator was deployed to support the operation remotely.
- Further surge deployments will be coordinated upon needs and requests.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of PMER monitoring visits</i>	1	-
<i># of evaluations conducted</i>	1	-

Progress towards outcomes

Due to COVID-19, closure of borders, in-country movement restrictions the PMER monitoring visits couldn't be carried out.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of overdue financial reports</i>	0	-

Progress towards outcomes

Due to challenges with cash transfer for the implementation of the operational plan, no cash transfer has been transferred to the National Society.

D. Financial Report

The budget remained the same with no changes in the activities.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

In the Iranian Red Crescent Society

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Logistics Coordinator,** Dharmin Thacker, Procurement Unit manager, email: Dharmin.Thacker@ifrc.org phone: +961 81314135

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace